

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) ~~A Device~~ device for continuously filtering material mixtures, especially for separating impurities from plastic melts, ~~with a hollow, cylindrically shaped filter element arranged within a housing, with an annular space defined by the outer side of the filter element and the inner wall of the housing, and with,~~ the device usable in an apparatus having at least one stripper, which can be pressed against the filter body by means of a contact device for removing operable to remove impurities detained on ~~[[the]]~~ a filter element ~~due to the relative movement of the filter element and stripper, characterized,~~ the device comprising:

~~in that the~~ a contact device contains member operable to press the stripper against the filter element;

a pressure sensor for detecting the pressure of the material mixture upstream from the filter ~~body~~ element; and

an actuator connected to the pressure sensor and the contact member, operable to ~~for setting~~ the set a pressure applied to the stripper by said contact member, whereby a contact pressure of the stripper ~~[[as a]]~~ against the filter element is a function of the pressure detected by the pressure sensor.

2. (Currently amended) ~~The Device~~ device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pressure sensor is a hydraulic transducer cylinder.

3. (Currently amended) ~~The Device~~ device according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hydraulic transducer cylinder contains a pressure piston displaceable within a piston housing, and a pressure bolt projecting into an inlet channel.

4. (Currently amended) ~~The Device~~ device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the actuator is a hydraulic adjusting cylinder.

5. (Currently amended) The Device device according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hydraulic adjusting cylinder contains a pressure piston displaceable within a cylinder housing and the contact member is a piston rod connected to the stripper.

6. (Currently amended) The Device device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pressure sensor and the actuator are connected to each other via a hydraulic line.

7. (Currently amended) The Device device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pressure sensor is an electric pressure transducer.

8. (Currently amended) The Device device according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the electric pressure transducer is connected to the actuator via control electronics and a pressure control valve.

9. (Currently amended) The Device device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the filter element ~~is arranged within the housing so that it can rotate~~ is motor-driven and is rotatable about a center axis.

10. (Currently amended) The Device device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the stripper is arranged at a diagonal angle with respect to a rotational axis of the filter element.

11. (Currently amended) The Device device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the stripper is arranged at a contact angle relative to a center plane of the filter element.

12. (Currently amended) The Device device according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the contact angle of the stripper is variable.

13. (Currently amended) ~~The Device~~ device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further including ~~in the housing there is~~ a rotatable spiral conveyor in the direct vicinity of the stripper for transporting away the impurities removed ~~radially~~ by the stripper from the filter element.

14. (Currently amended) ~~The Device~~ device according to claim ~~[[6]]~~ 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the filter element rotates and is ~~the rotating~~ motor-driven filter, and the spiral conveyor can be driven separately.

15. (Currently amended) ~~The Device~~ device according to claim ~~[[8]]~~ 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~rpm of the~~ filter element is rotatable, and the ~~[[rpm]]~~ rotational speed of the spiral conveyor and filter element are separately controllable.

16. (New) A device for continuously filtering material mixtures delivered to a filter element under pressure, comprising:

a housing;

a hollow, cylindrically-shaped filter element arranged within the housing;

at least one stripper pressable against the filter element and operable to remove impurities filtered by the filter element due to a relative movement of the filter element and the stripper;  
and

at least one contact assembly including

a pressure sensor for detecting the pressure of the delivered material mixture, and

an actuator connected to the pressure sensor and the stripper, operative to set a contact pressure of the stripper against the filter as a function of the pressure detected by the pressure sensor.

17. (New) A device for continuously filtering material mixtures delivered to a filter element under pressure, comprising:

a housing;

a hollow, cylindrically-shaped filter element arranged within the housing;

at least one stripper edge pressable in the direction of the filter element and operable thereby to separate impurities filtered by the filter element due to a relative rotational movement of the filter element and the stripper; and

at least one contact assembly including

a pressure sensor for detecting the pressure of the delivered material mixture, and

an actuator connected to the stripper and responsive to the pressure sensor, the actuator operative to press the stripper in the direction of the filter element with a force which corresponds to the pressure detected by the pressure sensor.

18. (New) The device of claim 17, wherein the actuator is selected from the group consisting of: electrically controlled pressure control valve, electric pressure transducer, hydraulic pressure transducer.

19. (New) The device of claim 17, wherein one of the filter element or stripper rotates in relation to the other.

20. (New) The device of claim 17, further comprising:

rotational waste removal means for conducting waste away from the stripper; and

means for controlling a rotational speed of said filter element and said rotational waste removal means whereby the relative speed of the waste removal means and said filter element are independently controllable.